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Agenda item 19

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON ITS TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Ms. Chris DENELL (Sweden)

Chapter ____

PRICE STATISTICS

1. The Commission considered agenda item 8 at the 479th and 480th meetings, on 1 March 1995. It had before it the progress report of the Task Force on Price Statistics including the International Comparison Programme (ICP) (E/CN.3/1995/7) and background documents, entitled "Basic terms of reference of the six Task Forces" and "Current status of the International Comparison Programme", prepared by the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat. The representative of the Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT), as the convener of the Task Force on Price Statistics, introduced the report of the Task Force.

2. The Commission noted that the Task Force was in the stage of conducting initial studies; a questionnaire was sent out to obtain information from the concerned agencies.

3. Members of the Commission expressed the view that the Task Force should not alter or expand its mandate to include other areas of price statistics. It was stressed that the Task Force should focus on activities determined in its terms of reference relating to the harmonization of consumer price indices (CPI)-related work.

4. The Commission emphasized the importance of the active participation of the regional commissions in the work of the Task Force. The Commission felt that even if the representation of the regional commissions at task force meetings could not be secured, their continued involvement by means of frequent communication, information and documentation exchange, using mail, telephone and electronic media contacts, was desirable.

5. The Commission noted that the situation that had brought forth the issue of hiring an independent consultant for the evaluation of the ICP had changed. It welcomed the active cooperation of the Statistical Division, the regional commissions and various international agencies, as well as national statistical offices, to promote, in a harmonized manner, the implementation of regional and global comparisons, and full-scale and reduced information surveys, and to explore the use of purchasing power parities for aggregation.

Action taken by the Commission

6. The Commission:

(a) Requested the Task force to carry out the fact-finding activities envisaged in its programme of work and focus on those aspects of the CPI harmonization issue that were manageable within the given time-frame and resources;

(b) Encouraged the improvement of alternative communication techniques and the involvement of the regional commissions in the Task Force's activities;

(c) Requested the Task Force to submit a progress report on its work to the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination at its forthcoming session.